

**RE: Durango Herald
story**

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Sabrina Forrest to: Jennifer Lane, Sonya Pennock, Richard Mylott

08/16/2011 11:27 PM

From: Sabrina Forrest/R8/USEPA/US

To: Jennifer Lane/R8/USEPA/US, Sonya Pennock/R8/USEPA/US, Richard Mylott/R8/USEPA/US

Cc: Daniel Heffernan/R8/USEPA/US@EPA

All, I would like some CIC and Media relations input here, as I am sure you may have answered similar questions for other possible NPL sites and I don't want to speak out of line....if you could respond to me while I am travelling tomorrow, I may be able to email this or call Lynda before her deadline.

Hi Lynda, I will do my best, but I don't think I have really clear answers to all your questions. I am sure these or similar questions will be asked at this Thursday's meeting. I look forward to meeting you and hope you will attend. EPA hopes that the community can begin discussing all these, and other issues related to water quality in the watershed.

1) If there is not the federal money to declare a Superfund site in Silverton, where can clean up money come from? I have never experienced there being no federal money for NPL sites; however, if that were the case, I would assume stakeholders would get creative and look for all the non-federal sources of money that might be available to prioritize in order to address a site. For example, funding by private parties or possible state or local funds. These may also have much less or no available money. In those cases, I suppose the site would not get addressed at all.

2) Are Cement Creek and Mineral Creek a danger to the people who fish, kayak, tube and raft in the Animas River? (This is the question tourists and residents most want answered by the EPA). These creeks, and the upper Animas, are adding metals loads to the Animas River; however, EPA has not conducted specific risk evaluations for fishing and recreational scenarios, so I can't say for sure. At this time, EPA believes the metals concentrations in water are not likely to pose a health threat to recreational visitors. Without more information, it is also difficult to determine whether there may be more concern for people who consume the fish they catch.

3) What is the best case scenario vis a vis the mine pollution--can the leaking be stopped, cleaned, diverted?

All the sources will need to be looked at and it is too early to presume what the remedy or remedies might be.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Forrest
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"Lynda Edwards" ---08/16/2011 12:10:16 PM---Hi Sabrina, I need to hand in my story before the meeting in Silverton this Thurs so I do have 3 urg

From: "Lynda Edwards" <ledwards@durangoherald.com>
To: Sabrina Forrest/R8/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 08/16/2011 12:10 PM
Subject: RE: Durango Herald

story

Hi Sabrina,

I need to hand in my story before the meeting in Silverton this Thurs so I do have 3 urgent questions for you---

- 1) If there is not the federal money to declare a Superfund site in Silverton, where can clean up money come from?
- 2) Are Cement Creek and Mineral Creek a danger to the people who fish, kayak, tube and raft in the Animas River? (This is the question tourists and residents most want answered by the EPA).
- 3) What is the best case scenario vis a vis the mine pollution--can the leaking be stopped, cleaned, diverted?

Thanks so much!
Lynda

-----Original Message-----

From: Forrest.Sabrina@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Forrest.Sabrina@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 09, 2011 10:23 AM
To: Lynda Edwards
Cc: Peter Butler; Cathleen_Zillich@blm.gov; Lane.Jennifer@epamail.epa.gov
Subject: Re: Durango Herald

story

Hi Lynda, Thanks for your patience last week. I am still buried in preparing for next week's meeting in Silverton and catching up with many issues from being away two weeks. I hope to be able to talk with you again soon; however, if you have particular questions, could you email them to me? I may be able to respond better after normal working hours

and I want to keep my community involvement coordinator, the ARSG, and the BLM in the loop too.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Forrest
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From: "Lynda Edwards" <ledwards@durangoherald.com>
To: Sabrina Forrest/R8/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 08/01/2011 12:15 PM
Subject: Durango Herald

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Hi Sabrina

I'm the government reporter for The Durango Herald. I'm working on a four part series about the Animas River.

I've interviewed business owners and citizens groups about the possibility of a Superfund site. In Silverton, citizens are particularly keen on getting Cement Creek and Mineral Creek cleaned up because there is a chance at getting a scenic wild river designation.

Could you please give me a call so I can ask you a few questions about where things stand vis a vis the possibility of getting a Superfund site declared near Silverton?

If you are on the road and will be in the La Plata County area, I would be glad to come and meet you wherever is convenient for you.

My direct phone number is 970-375-4537.

Thanks very much,
Lynda Edwards